

Examples are enclosed of the heavy publicity, press statements, resolutions, and meetings put on by the WPC and its national affiliates regarding the Anglo-French-Israeli armed action in Egypt over the seizure of the Suez Canal. Strong words were used: ~~unwarranted aggression - reimposition of colonial domination - hostile instant, unconditional withdrawal of the foreign occupation~~ ^{WPC expected} action of imperialists - utter condemnation ~~on the other hand,~~ ^{WPC expected} complete solidarity with the Egyptian people in defense of ~~the~~ ^{their} just rights and their home-land - even a fund for the just Egyptian cause ^{was raised} (See attachment 5).

The WPC ignored the Soviet armed action in Hungary until ^{so} many of its affiliates became ~~so~~ deeply involved in difficulties because of the absence of any official pronouncement that the Council was forced to call an " emergency meeting " ^{on the 18th} 18 November 1956 in Helsinki. ^{This was} first announced for Stockholm - but the ^{general} revulsion caused ~~by~~ ^{the} their hesitancy in taking a stand was probably the reason that Swedish Government refused visas for the meeting. [#] This meeting had a somewhat "stacked" aspect; 18 of the 50 people who attended were strong French Communists. ~~in addition to the 18 French Communists and 32 other 22. The Helsinki~~ Despite this stacking, the Socialist members put up such a fight for an equitable statement suitable to the facts of the issue and in keeping with the WPC tenets that the Helsingin Sanomat on 23 November quoted " circles generally well-informed " ^{to} the effect that "fierce disputes" marked the meeting because Stalinists drafted ~~a resolution unacceptable~~ ^{the} . The ensuing debate tried the unity of the organization " to the utmost. " Nye Pressen (Swedish paper in Helsinki) headlined a similar story " Peace Fighters Fought All Through the Night Behind Closed Doors. " Husti Suomi declared that " from the point of view of it is deplorable that, our country, in a period of international conflict, a Communist propaganda organ... intends to make use of our position of neutrality, thus making the City of Helsinki suspect as a follower of certain ideology.... " The Ilta Sanomat said " The cause of peace and the defense of peace are good things. But the manner in which Communists try to reach their goal is foreign to the Finns. The Swedes showed what they think of the Communist peace movement (by refusing permission for the meeting). The Finns are silent -- (for obvious reasons). ~~It soon became known and admitted by the WPC that there was the first open break~~ admitted that a difference of opinion had made agreement impossible and that some of the members had refused to sign the resolution passed by the meeting, although ^{the resolution} mildly " regretted " the bloodshed in Hungary, expressed sympathy for the Hungarian people, and " desired " a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary after agreement between the USSR and Hungary (already conceded by the USSR itself). The resolution also not too subtly excused the Soviet use of armed force against the

~~New Times, December 1956~~ An analysis of the events which began in Hungary on 23 October said that they were due to mistakes in the leadership of the government, Imre Nagy's ~~encouragement~~ encouragement of reactionary forces that facilitated the outbreak of the counter-revolution, the existence of considerable Horthy-fascists, and the basic and decisive part played by international imperialism, which tried to create a seat of war in Europe

~~(and the Soviet Union's role in the events of the Hungarian Revolution)~~ "The Soviets firm attitude in both Egypt and Hungary forestalled a third world war."

~~Soviet press reported that Western "interference" in Hungary and intervention in Egypt are increasingly linked with~~

Charges of US subversion monopolized the comments on Hungary - NATO's appeal for public ^{Soviet} pressure to induce withdrawal of troops was called new evidence of Western designs on the ~~Bloc~~, President Eisenhower's Human Rights statement was countered in Pravda suggesting that the country which "intervened" in Guatemala and practices discrimination at home is in no position to talk about human rights.

Hungarian people by saying that the Council "recognized that the primary cause^{for} the Hungarian tragedy ~~were~~, on the one hand, the cold war with its long years of hatred and mistrust, the policy of blocs and, on the other hand, the mistakes of the preceding Hungarian rulers (de-Stalinization) and the exploitation of these mistakes by foreign propaganda..." --- a very different attitude ~~from~~ ^{from} that taken against the English, French, and Israelis.

Soviet propaganda ran along these lines (from the New Times of December 1956):
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Later material in the WPC Bulletin and ~~from~~ statements by WPC members have hinted at the same line. For instance, at the All-India Peace Conf in November 1956, Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew, WPC member ^{soviet union} tried to whitewash the Soviet Union by referring to the lack of adequate information about the true nature of the civil conflict in Hungary. When Dr Radhabinod Pal tried to speak of the "deplorable display of brute force in Egypt and Hungary ", the Communist audience heckled him. However, a discussion group at the conference criticized the "information document" supplied by the Vienna headquarters (purporting to explain the "true situation in Hungary") so bitterly that Kitchlew and Kosambi had to take the floor and say that "~~peace~~ unity should be maintained at any cost" and that the Peace Committee would stand solidly behind the Indian Government's position (Nehru had recently taken a very weak position, which he later changed). ~~rally at the end of the conference~~
At a later meeting, Kitchlew told the audience that the Indian people would not "misunderstand Soviet action in Hungary," and WPC member Sunderlal said that the "howl" about Hungary had been raised to conceal the evil designs of the imperialists in Egypt and that French and English action had been instigated in the United States.

Conflicts in the national committees were acute-- ~~the~~ ^{country's} ~~Nenni-Socialist~~ contingent of the Italian Peace Council threatened to leave the Council and ~~have~~ actually immobilized it because the leadership would not publicly criticize the Soviet Union. (The Communists are now trying to revive the Movement ~~there~~ ^{in Italy}); it took a heated session of the French Peace Council in December to make the leadership include a demand for the withdrawal of Soviet troops in a resolution on the Hungarian situation; in addition two of the WPC members, ^{Jean Paul Sartre and Vercors,} criticized the Peace Movement severely, even Picasso, creator of the WPC peace dove, was openly against its attitude; the Netherlands Peace Committee split completely over its leadership's ~~unwavering~~ unyielding loyalty to the Soviets. Nico Luirink, who had resigned in the post -20th CPSU Congress "liberalization" tactic of removing too-prominent Communists from top positions in the Peace Councils, was recalled to dissolve Vrede, the peace organ^{press}, and ~~establish~~ ^{establish} substitute

brochures containing peace articles more to the Party's liking. A recent newspaper discussion by De Groot on the folly of entrusting the peace movement to any but bonafide Communists left no doubts but that there would be another reorganization of the Dutch Peace Movement soon.

Kol Haam, Israel Communist Party paper, reported on 22 January 1957 that the Israeli Peace Movement had been tossed out of the WPC, although the Israeli Peace ~~Council~~ Council and Ahdut Avoda denied it. The Israelis were branded as ~~an~~ aggressor at Helsinki, most of their speeches deleted from the published reports of the proceedings. ~~So the Peace Movement had been~~ ^{was} in considerable hot water trying to reconcile its position with national events during all of 1956.

~~Members of the Chilean Sections of WPC stated that the Hungarian people should decide for themselves~~